



Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Henry R. Darwin
Director

March 30, 2015

Inspection ID #: 234148

Hickman's Egg Ranch, Inc.
Attention: Billy Hickman, Vice President
6515 S. Jackrabbit Trail
Buckeye, AZ 85326

Re: Complaint Response Inspection of Hickman's Family Farms – Arlington, located at 32425 W. Salome Highway, Arlington, AZ 85322

Dear Mrs. Yeatts:

The Water Quality Compliance Field Service Unit I (WQCFSU) of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has enclosed an inspection report regarding the inspection conducted at the above referenced facility on February 23, 2014. The inspection was conducted to determine compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) Title 49, Chapter 351 *et seq.*, Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R-18-9-403 (Nitrogen General Permits: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations; and pursuant to the authority in A.R.S. § 41-1009, A.R.S. §49-203(B)(1), and A.A.C. R18-9-110(A).

As indicated in the enclosed "Inspection Report" no deficiencies were observed during the inspections and during the review of ADEQ records by WQFUSU staff. No further action will result from the inspections.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at directly at 602-771-7667, or by email at TV1@azdeq.gov.

Sincerely,

Tyler Viliborghi
Environmental Programs Specialist

Attachments: WQCFSU Inspection Report and Photo Log, dated March 16 2015
ADEQ Notice of Inspection Rights Form, dated Feb. 23, 2015

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Water Quality Division- Water Quality Compliance Section

Water Quality Compliance Field Service Unit I (WQCFSU)

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION

Facility: Hickman's Egg Ranch – Arlington

Inspection ID #: 234148

Aquifer Protection Permit: N/A

AZPDES Permit #: N/A

Storm Water Permit #: N/A

Inventory #: N/A

Inspected by: Tyler Viliborghi, ADEQ WQCFSU

Inspection Date: February 23, 2014

Accompanied by: Robert Phalen, ADEQ WQCFSU
Shari Yeatts, Compliance Manager, Hickman's Family Farms
Scott Seeley, Facility Manager, Hickman's Family Farms
Paul Yeatts, Production Manager, Hickman's Family Farms
Ruben Garcia, Pest Control Manager, Hickman's Family Farms

Inspection Purpose and Scope:

On February 8, 2015, the ADEQ WQCFSU received a confidential complaint in reference to Hickman's Family Farms – Arlington.

The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R-18-9-403 (Nitrogen General Permits: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations); and pursuant to the authority in A.R.S. § 41-1009, A.R.S. §49-203(B)(1), and A.A.C. R18-9-110(A).

Facility Description:

The Hickman's Egg Ranch – Arlington is a large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) producing shell eggs. The facility consists of two adjacent sites, Arlington North and Arlington South. Arlington North is located on an approximately 170 acre plot north of Ward Rd. and west of Salome Hwy. Arlington South is located on an approximately 185 acre plot south of Ward Rd.

The Arlington North site operates 14 lay houses, an egg processing facility, and a chicken-manure-fertilizer operation. A lined impoundment west of the lay houses is used to hold and evaporate wastewater from the egg processing building. Two basins provide storm-water retention for the lay houses and egg processing area. One is located to the southwest of the egg processing building and the other to the southeast.

The chicken-manure-fertilizer operation is located on the east end of the Arlington North site. It processes manure produced at both of the Arlington sites and the Tonopah site. Manure produced at the lay houses is collected on covered pads and loaded onto trucks for transport to the fertilizer operation. The fertilizer processing area is separated from the rest of the site by a fence, with tire washing stations at each entrance.

and exit. The fertilizer processing area has its own storm-water retention basin located to the southwest of the manure drying area.

The Arlington South site operates 12 lay houses, 7 pullet houses, an egg processing facility, and a windrow composting area. Wastewater from the egg processing building is held in two lined impoundments. The primary is located to the south of the lay houses and secondary west of that near the irrigation well and composting area. An additional overflow pond is located immediately to the south of the primary wastewater impoundment. Non potable water is provided by a well and adjacent standpipe located south of the composting area. Storm-water is contained by two retention basins. One retention basin is located north of the lay houses along the tree line and the other is located near the pullet houses and the grain silos.

Observations:

At the time of inspection, the WQCFSU representatives were provided a copy of the best management practices employed by Hickman's Egg Ranch. Site blueprints identifying structures, impoundments, and retention basins were presented and facility representatives informed the WQCFSU representatives of the wastewater practices. Paul Yeatts, the production manager for Hickman's Family Farms, informed the WQCFSU representatives that the Arlington North and South sites have been graded in such a way that all storm-water will collect into onsite retention basins engineered to contain a 100 year rain event. Additionally, gravel filled exfiltration areas are in place to disperse any storm-water prior to a discharge if a rain event were to exceed the retention capacity in place. Mr. Yeatts confirmed that no discharge occurred as a result of the record breaking rain event on September 8, 2014.

The WQCFSU representatives began the inspection by viewing the impoundments and retention basins at the Arlington North site. The lined impoundment on the north site used for the retention of egg wash wastewater was observed to be in good condition, without structural damage and without cracks in the liner (photograph #1). Mrs. Yeatts informed the WQCFSU representatives that Hickman's Egg Ranch intends to install a pipe to convey overflow from this process wastewater impoundment to the north end of the site for supplemental irrigation. The three storm-water retention basins at Arlington North were each observed to be in good condition, of adequate storage capacity, and with signs of regular maintenance (photographs #2-4).

The WQCFSU representatives continued the inspection on the Arlington South site first by observing the two storm water retention basins. Both were found to be in good condition, of adequate storage capacity, and with signs of regular maintenance (photographs #5 and #6). An irrigation well and stand pipe was observed south of the composting area (photograph #7). Mrs. Yeatts informed the WQCFSU representative that this was the source of water for dust control and the majority of irrigation for both the North and South sites. The WQCFSU representatives observed signs of vehicle traffic and wet soil in the area under the stand pipe. A water truck performing dust control was observed coming from the direction of the stand pipe (photograph #11).

Two lined impoundments used for retention of egg wash wastewater were also inspected at the south site. The primary impoundment is located south of the lay houses and east of the egg processing building (photograph #9). An additional unlined impoundment was observed to the south of the primary impoundment (photograph #10). Mrs. Yeatts informed the WQCFSU representatives that the unlined impoundment is used for the retention of overflow and plans were in place to line this impoundment. The secondary egg wash wastewater impoundment, used in the winter months when evaporation rates are lower, is located west of the primary impoundment, near the irrigation well (photograph #8). Both lined

impoundments were observed to be in good condition, without structural damage and without cracks in the liner. Mrs. Yeatts informed the WCQFSU representatives that hurricane pumps located at the wastewater impoundments were used periodically to pump overflow into trucks for onsite irrigation (photograph #9).

The WCQFSU representatives observed that the facility was adhering to best management practices, satisfying the requirements of the Arizona Nitrogen Management General Permit for CAFO's pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-9-403. The Hickman's Family Farms – Arlington North and Arlington South facilities do not discharge into a water of the United States and have demonstrated adequate control measures to prevent an accidental discharge, thus do not require the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) CAFO General Permit and are not required to submit Notices of Intent (NOI). Overflow from the egg process wastewater impoundments is utilized only for onsite irrigation of vegetation not used as human or animal food, thus is not applicable for classification as a reclaimed water and does not require permitting described in Title 18, Article 7 pursuant to A.A.C R18-9-702.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the WCQFSU representative stated that no potential deficiencies were noted during the course of the inspection. If any agency action is taken as a result of this inspection ADEQ will provide monthly updates as required by A.R.S. § 41-1009(H).